This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

+ *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.

+ *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.

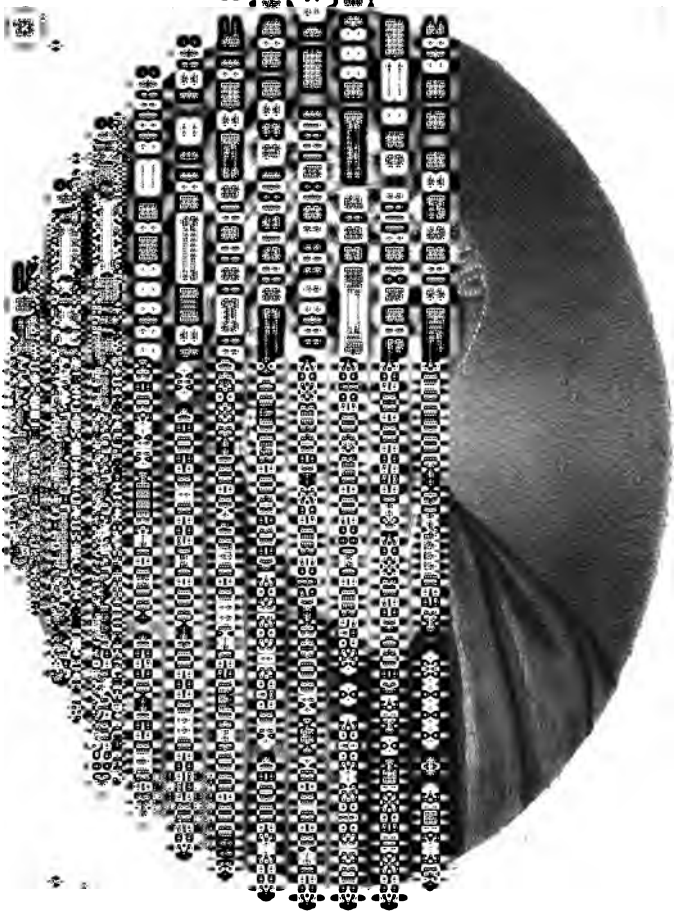
+ *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.

+ *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at `http://books.google.com/`

Bamp, Nathan
Memorial
AN

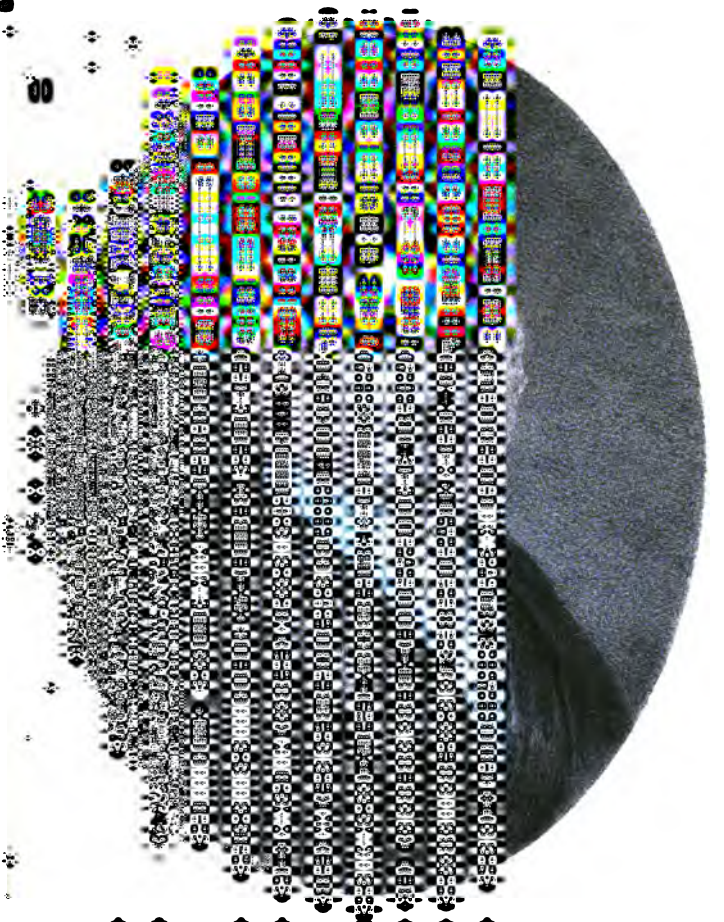


CHEAP EMPORIUM OF ENTERPRISE IN 1817.

132. Nassau St.

SE IN 1847.

132, Nassau St.



M IN 1847.

132 Nassau St

RADY IN 1856.

132, Nassau St

[illegible] AL

[illegible] Wedding

[illegible] MARY BANGS,

[illegible] 56.

[illegible] YORK:
[illegible] CIRCULATION.

THE
NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
Astor, Lenox and Tilden
Foundations.
1897.

10567

On the 23d day of April, 1856, *my beloved wife and myself celebrated the beginning of the second half-century of our wedded life, in the midst of our children and our children's children, and a large number of valued friends. To us and to our family the occasion was one full of pleasure, and they have thought it proper to preserve for themselves some memento of the event, as one which can never re-occur, and which, whenever it is recalled to their memory, will be accompanied with grateful remembrances of kind friends who united with them in a testimony of respect and affection for those whom they delighted to honor. In that view, and not in any spirit of vanity or ostentation, I have consented that they might prepare in this form, the pages which follow,—and retain them for themselves and their children, as well as deliver a few copies to those of their friends who they think may value a brief record of the celebration.*

N. BANGS.

40 Irving Place,
New York, *June*, 1856.

Memorial.

NATHAN BANGS and MARY BOLTON were married April 23, 1806, at Edwardsburgh, in the Province of Upper Canada. Having lived together in wedded life for fifty years, the event was marked by a gathering of their family and many of their friends, at the residence of their son, Mr. LEMUEL BANGS, No. 50 Irving Place, New York, on April 23, 1856. The entertainment was of a social character purely; and there were there

MRS. JOHN BUCKMASTER.
MISS JOSEPHINE BUCKMASTER.
MRS. DR. BALDWIN.
MR. W. A. BUDD.
MR. AND MRS. A. CUSHMAN.
REV. AND MRS. THOS. CARLTON.
MISS MARY CLARK.
MR. AND MRS. B. N. DISBROW.
MR. AND MRS. W. P. DISOSWAY.
MR. AND MRS. C. R. DISOSWAY.
MR. G. P. DISOSWAY.

MRS. C. R. DEUEL.
MISS MARY DEUEL.
REV. R. S. FOSTER, D. D.
REV. G. S. GILBERT.
MR. AND MRS. C. T. GILBERT.
MR. SAMUEL HALSTED.
MISS HALSTED.
MR. FRANCIS HALL.
MR. AND MRS. JAMES HARPER.
MISS SUSAN HYATT.
MAJOR AND MRS. HAYES.
MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH W. HARPER.
MR. FLETCHER HARPER.
MRS. C. R. HINCKLEY.
MR. AND MRS. J. W. HARPER, JR.
MISS A. P. HARPER.
MR. AND MRS. EDWIN HYDE.
MR. AND MRS. CHARLES G. KETCHUM.
MR. AND MRS. C. W. KELLOGG.
REV. AND MRS. SEYMOUR LANDON.
REV. T. H. LANDON.
MR. AND MRS. LANGFORD.
MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM E. LEWIS.
MR. WILLIAM E. LEWIS, JR.
DR. AND MRS. D. S. LANDON.
MR. AND MRS. THOMAS McELRATH.
MR. AND MRS. HENRY MOORE.
MRS. M. W. MASON.
MR. AND MRS. J. M. MORRISON.
MR. AND MRS. RALPH MEAD.
MR. AND MRS. RALPH MEAD, JR.
MR. M. E. MEAD.
MR. AND MRS. E. N. MANN.
MR. B. N. MAGRUDER.
MR. A. M. MERWIN.

REV. J. B. MERWIN.
MISS SARAH MERWIN.
MR. AND MRS. DAVID McDOWAL.
MR. AND MRS. S. U. F. ODELL.
MR. AND MRS. M. F. ODELL.
MR. AND MRS. ISAAC J. OLIVER.
MRS. WM. A. ODELL.
REV. A. M. OSBON, D. D.
DR. AND MRS. A. S. PURDY.
MISS EMMA PURDY.
MISS ELIZA PURDY.
MR. AND MRS. THOMSON PRICE.
DR. AND MRS. W. C. PALMER.
REV. AND MRS. B. PILLSBURY.
MISS PARRISH.
MR. DARLEY RANDALL.
DR. D. M. REESE.
MR. AND MRS. R. A. READING.
MISS MARGARET AMELIA READING.
MR. AND MRS. SAMUEL G. SMITH.
MRS. D. N. SINN.
MISS SARAH SCOTT.
MR. AND MRS. JAS. D. SPARKMAN.
MR. AND MRS. W. B. THOMPSON.
MR. JOHN THOMPSON.
MR. AND MRS. JAMES L. TRUSLOW.
MR. JOHN TRUSLOW.
REV. AND MRS. GEORGE TAYLOR.
MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM TRUSLOW.
MISS HESTER TRUSLOW.
MRS. S. E. VAN VEGHTEN.
MISS JULIA VAN VEGHTEN.
MR. SAMUEL WILKES.
MISS AMANDA WILLIAMS.
MR. AND MRS. ANSON WILLIS.

REV. AND MRS. HEMAN BANGS.
MISS ELIZABETH C. BANGS.
MISS SARAH J. BANGS.
MR. LEMUEL BANGS.
MRS. JULIA A. BANGS.
MR. NATHAN D. BANGS.
MASTER LEMUEL BOLTON BANGS.
MISS JULIA FRANCES BANGS.
MASTER FLETCHER HARPER BANGS.
MASTER WM. McKENDREE BANGS.
MASTER GILBERT MERWIN BANGS.
MR. NATHAN BANGS, JR.
MRS. HANNAH G. BANGS.
MR. JOHN B. BANGS.
MASTER CHARLES WESLEY BANGS.
MISS EMMA JOSEPHINE BANGS.
MASTER NATHAN STOCKTON BANGS.
MR. ELIJAH KEELER BANGS.
MRS. KATHARINE B. BANGS.
MASTER LEMUEL W. BANGS.
MISS MARY EMMA M. BANGS.
MASTER WM. J. BANGS.
MASTER WALTER K. BANGS.
MISS MARY E. BANGS.
MISS REBECCA BANGS.
MR. FRANCIS N. BANGS.
MRS. AMELIA F. BANGS.
MASTER FRANCIS SEDGWICK BANGS.

Many others who were invited were not present; among them those from whom the following notes were received:

FROM REV. DR. HANNAH,

DELEGATE FROM THE BRITISH WESLEYAN CONFERENCE TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

108 SECOND AVENUE, *April* 22, 1856.

MY DEAR DR. BANGS:—

I AM gratefully obliged to Mrs. Bangs and yourself, for your kind invitation to join in the party of friends who meet to-morrow evening, to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of your happy marriage union. May it please God to continue that union for years to come, crowning all your lives with good, and raising you to a yet higher fellowship in the kingdom of eternal light and love! It would be very gratifying to me, if I could be present on an occasion so full of interest. Mr. Jobson and I have carefully reconsidered our plans, to see if we might not postpone our departure from New York for the space of one or two days. But on a review of all circumstances, we feel that it is most desirable to adhere to our first arrangement, and set out for the West to-morrow morning. I shall thus be deprived of the pleasure of meeting you in the evening. But I am glad to have been permitted to see you once more, and to recall the memory of past and happy days. With affectionate regards to Mrs. Bangs, yourself, and all your domestic circle,

I am, my dear Dr. Bangs,

Yours, very sincerely,

JOHN HANNAH.

REV. DR. BANGS.

P. S. Mr. Jobson, if he do not write separately, would unite with me in best and truest regards.

FROM REV. F. J. JOBSON,

DR. HANNAH'S CO-DELEGATE.

DEAR DR. BANGS:

DR. Hannah will have informed you, I suppose, that we still purpose leaving here on Wednesday. Otherwise, I should greatly enjoy the honor and pleasure of meeting you and your friends in the evening. With unfeigned esteem, I am, Dear Dr.,

Yours, affectionately,

F. J. JOBSON.

MULBERRY STREET, *April* 22, 1856.

FROM REV. DR. McCLINTOCK.

DR. McClintock's kindest compliments to Dr. and Mrs. Bangs, and regrets exceedingly that Mrs. McClintock's illness, and his own necessary absence from town, make it impossible for him to felicitate them personally on the arrival of their "golden wedding day." He prays the Divine blessing upon Dr. and Mrs. Bangs, and upon all their children.

CARLISLE, *April* 20.

FROM JOHN W. FRANCIS, M. D.

NEW YORK, *April* 23, 1856.

6½ o'clock, P. M.

REV. AND DEAR SIR:

ON Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, I was confined to my room and in bed. This morning I started out for a while, but found this atmosphere direful. I have expected until within some half hour to be able to join your social circle on the occasion of so rare an

event, so full of associations, of family gratifications, and grateful feelings. Dear Dr., I give you and your precious family all joy. God indeed has been bountiful to you; and you indeed, through your long life, have proved abundantly worthy as the recipient of such glorious blessings. May years roll on with uninterrupted satisfaction!

Poor Mrs. Francis has received your invitation with peculiar grateful emotions; but since our stupendous loss * she has visited no one. As to myself, I wish to be with you at the house of our precious Lemuel Bangs and his family; but I dare not venture out. I can, at present, scarcely utter a whisper, on account of a laryngeal trouble, which threatens the invasion of my old and sad infirmity, laryngitis, from which I once miraculously recovered; and the disorder is favored in its invasion by a previous attack. I know that both you and your circle will deem this a potent reason for my absence, however painful it may be to me.

With every consideration of regard and esteem to you and your family, to the worthy Lemuel Bangs, Mr. Merwin, and the entire happy and favored circle of friends in harmony, I remain,

Rev. and Dear Sir, yours, most truly,

JOHN W. FRANCIS.

N. Bangs, Sen., D. D.

FROM S. W. STOCKTON, ESQ.

Dear Father and Mother Bangs:—

We very much regret that circumstances were such as to make it exceedingly inconvenient for us to accept your very kind invita-

* Alluding to the death of the doctor's eldest son, so universally beloved and deplored.

tion to be with you on the exceedingly interesting occasion of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of your marriage day. It would have afforded us very extraordinary pleasure, to see the smiling countenances of parents and children and friends, and to look upon the aged pilgrims, who, now beyond the darts of the King's enemies, have entered the land of Beulah, and are now being refreshed with the roses of Sharon and the lillies of the valley. May the richest blessings of the mighty God of Jacob, through the precious blood of the everlasting covenant, attend you to the cold streams of Jordan; and may the angel of God bear you triumphantly away to the saints' everlasting rest, when the master shall call you to your reward!

Very affectionately,

Yours, &c.,

S. W. STOCKTON.

Burlington, N. J.,
April 21, 1856.

FROM MISS M. R. GARRETTSON.

Weldercliffe, *April* 21, 1856.

Rev. and Dear Sir:

It would give me great pleasure to be with you on next Wednesday were it in my power to do so; but before I had received your letter I had engaged some friends to stay with me this week: they will probably arrive to-morrow. Next week, however, I hope to see Mrs. Bangs and yourself, and to offer my congratulations.

My kindest regards to Mrs. Bangs and your daughters, including Mrs. L. Bangs; and believe me to remain yours with sentiments of esteem and affection,

M. R. GARRETTSON.

FROM MRS. OLIN.

147 East Eighteenth Street,
Monday,

Rev. and Dear Sir:

I regret exceedingly that I cannot be present at your golden wedding; but before I received your invitation I had made my arrangements to go out of town on Wednesday with my mother. It would have given me great pleasure to be present on an occasion of so much interest. With my love to Mrs. Bangs and your daughters, I am very truly yours,

JULIA M. OLIN.

Several of the guests brought to the venerable couple interesting tokens of their respect.

In the course of the evening, after they had received the congratulations of their friends, the Rev. Dr. Foster addressed Dr. and Mrs. Bangs, as follows: —

Revered and Honored Friends:

It is desired on the part of a number of your friends present, that a more explicit and direct expression of the congratulations which we all feel struggling for utterance, should be conveyed to you; not, however, in the spirit of mere compliment or empty adulation, but in earnest and hearty sincerity.

They have honored me with the commission to bear their greetings; I am sent to speak for them—to say a part, *only a part*, of the many kind and affectionate words they would speak themselves, could they individually address you.

On behalf of all present, therefore, I most sincerely give you joy; I bring you arms full and hearts full of greetings; I come to say, We all joy with you, we all joy for you, we all joy *in* you.

It is your fiftieth marriage anniversary! There is not one here who, as he has looked upon you this evening, has not thought of that marriage day, fifty years ago. Magic fancy has annihilated intervening years. We have seen you young again. The gray hairs have given place to auburn locks; the tremulous step of age, to the elastic and buoyant step of youth; young, loving, hopeful, and strong, we have gazed upon you, standing at life's real portal, preparing for that dubious race in which so many have failed. Yea, the magic artist has even painted the place, and the company, and the entire scene. It was not in halls like this, nor precisely such a throng. There were a few there—loving friends. They kissed you, and prayed for you, and sent you on your way. Their eyes and their blessings followed you, as you went forth to life's labor and battle. The old ones wept, and said, May the blessing of Him that dwelt in the bush go with the children! That was the morning—*bright, beautiful!* We come in the evening with our greetings. The voices of the morning are hushed; death hath touched those lips; we come

with the evening benedictions. They sent forth the young man and his blooming bride, to work and make gain,—not of the things that perish, but of the enduring riches. We come to meet the old man, with his faithful companion, as they return, full of honor, full of riches,—life's work done. The fifty intervening years have not been all of one hue, unvarying in their brightness. No! There have been bright days and dark days—days of sorrow and days of jubilation—days of prosperity and days of adversity. Now the sun has filled the heavens with warmth and the earth with brightness—now clouds, cold and chilling, have floated along the skies. You have had your bitterness with your sweets; for,

> "Into each life some rain must fall,
> Some days must be dark and dreary."

But through all, the God of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, has been with you, guiding and sustaining. We give you joy for all the way in which he has led you. You are older now than on that nuptial day—fifty years ago; time and care have made their impress on your honored brows; the almond tree flourishes; they that look out of the windows are darkened;—but your hearts are still young. Then all was prospect; now you have added a pleasing retrospect; and yet the prospect opens on amid the brightness of everlasting day. We give you joy, then, for the past; we give you joy for the future.

In a word, we congratulate you for all that you have done, and for all that you have suffered, in the cause of your Master—for your youthful itinerant toils amid the

snows of the north—for the high and honorable position you early won as the friend and champion of the truth—for the part you have performed in laying the foundation and building up the walls of our beloved church—for your literary accomplishments and efforts, when there were but few brains to think, and few hands to wield the pen—for your connection with the great cause of Christian missions—for the honors which have been conferred upon you, never undeserved, never sullied in your hands. We congratulate you in your children and children's children, in the comforts of a tranquil and happy old age, and above all in the glorious prospect which opens before you of a happy immortality. Finally, we admire, we *love* you for your wisdom, for your piety, for your labors, for your influence, for all that constitutes personal worth. We regard you, and shall teach our children to remember you, when you shall be no more among us, as one of the great men whom God raised up for a mission in the world. These, I am certain, are the sincere feelings of the scores who are come to rejoice with you at this hour. We hope to meet you where the flight of years brings neither infirmity nor the solemn premonitions of approaching dissolution. We bring you joy; we bring you greeting; may the blessing of Heaven be with you forever!

When Dr. Foster had concluded his address, Dr. Bangs arose and spoke, with much emotion, in substance as follows:—

SIR:—

I thank you most heartily for your complimentary address, so far transcending my deserts. I cannot, however, avoid acknowledging your kind regards, expressed to me and my beloved wife on this most interesting occasion. Could I claim one half the merit you have ascribed to me, I should feel myself highly honored; but humble as my pretensions are, and unworthy as I feel myself to be, they sink still lower when compared to others that have gone before me in the work of the ministry; and they all cease to be meritorious when it is remembered that I am indebted to the abounding grace of God in Christ Jesus, my Lord and Saviour, for every good and perfect gift. "Not unto us, O Lord, but unto thy name be all the glory!"

Little did we think when we joined our hands and hearts together, fifty years ago, as husband and wife, that we should live to enjoy the fiftieth year of our marriage, surrounded, as we are, with so many beloved children and other smiling faces, to be greeted by such a company of kind-hearted Christian friends. How many with whom we have been associated, have passed away into eternity since that happy day! I thank you most heartily for thus conveying to us the joyful congratulations of these Christian friends on this fiftieth anniversary of our wedding.

When we joined our hands we mutually pledged our-

selves to take each other for better and worse, for richer and poorer, and to live together as husband and wife, in sickness and health, in adversity and prosperity, until death should separate us; and however unfaithful I may have been, I can say for my beloved spouse, that she has fulfilled her part of the covenant to the letter; for in all the vicissitudes of adversity and prosperity through which we have passed, she has clung to me with the utmost fidelity, sharing with me in my privations and trials, and rejoicing with me in my temporal and spiritual prosperity.

There was, however, one part of the marriage ceremony which she never liked, namely, that in which she promised to *obey* me. Whether she made any mental reservation or not when she made the promise—for she did make it—I cannot say; but she always thought that this was an unnecessary requisition, and she would hardly forgive St. Paul for making it; and yet, strange to say, she always obeyed both me and St. Paul so gracefully that it seemed like a natural impulse, as though she did it without knowing it, thus fulfilling the contract, as it were, unconsciously. Some part of this merit, I may, perhaps, claim for myself; for, knowing her aversion to the words, I generally took care not to command, but merely to express my wishes, and I was sure to be gratified to the full extent of her ability; and thus we have striven to accommodate each other as far as practicable.

We have, of course, passed through some afflictions, and had our share of toil and trials, as well as seasons of prosperity and times of rejoicing; but in them all the

Lord has been with us, to sustain and comfort us, and his people have treated us kindly, and been ever ready to supply our wants. The first year of our marriage we went to Quebec, where Methodism was known only as a term of reproach; there we labored hard, and suffered a little, without seeing much fruit of our labors, only so far as to open the way for our successors. The next year we were stationed in Montreal, where, in the midst of many privations, God was with us, and blessed our labors, and comforted our own souls. The next year, 1808, we moved to the United States, and were stationed on the Delaware circuit, in the midst of our relations, where we enjoyed many consolations, though the labor was great. Thence we went the next year on to the Durham circuit, where I held a public controversy with a Hopkinsian minister, and wrote the first book I ever published,—a small pamphlet against the Christians, so called. Those were then comparatively new countries, the rides long, and the fare not the best; but the people were kind, and the Lord was with us, and blessed our labors. The next year, 1810, we were stationed in the city of New York, where there were only three churches and five preaching places; but there was only one parsonage—that in John street; consequently we had to occupy parts of houses, but were received and treated with great kindness; all our wants were supplied, and God owned and blessed our labors abundantly.

From that time to this, with the exception of about eight years, we have resided in this city, filling various stations, as preacher, book-agent, editor, corresponding

secretary of the Missionary Society, and presiding elder; and Oh, what has God wrought for the church since that time!

In 1806, the year we were married, the Methodist Episcopal Church numbered 130,570; it now numbers, including the north and south, 1,320,566. And what abundant cause have we, personally, for gratitude! During all this time, God has been with us in adversity and prosperity, supplied our wants in the time of need, blessed us temporally and spiritually, lengthened out our years—my own to 78, and my wife's to 68—borne with our infirmities; and though we have had our share of afflictions of body and mind, our consolations have been great, and we have found that all things have worked together for our good.

My beloved wife has been a fruitful vine. We have had eleven children, six sons and five daughters, and we have fifteen grand-children. Seven of our children are now living, five sons and two daughters; and four of our sons are married, and live near by us. In the house of the oldest of these we are now assembled, surrounded by the rest of my children and grand-children, all who are able to be here; and with this assemblage of affectionate and Christian friends, we are permitted to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of our wedding day! I must say that this, if not the happiest, yet is one of the happiest days of my life. To be thus surrounded with my children and grand-children, with such a circle of Christian friends, old and young, fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, whose

smiling faces bespeak the gladness of their hearts,—it reminds me of the day—which I confess I anticipate with some degree of pleasure—when the Bride and the Bridegroom shall appear in the last great day, the one crowned with glory and honor, and the other decked with robes whitened with His most precious blood.

May God bless you all, and bring you and me and mine to participate in that glorious resurrection to immortality and eternal life!

NOTE.—There are some particulars inserted in the above, which were not mentioned in the address, as it was altogether impromptu. The leading thoughts, however, are preserved.

DR. PALMER then circulated copies of the following hymn, written by Mrs. Palmer, and already printed, viz.—

Semi-Centennial Marriage Hymn.

TO OUR HONORED FATHER IN CHRIST,

REV. DR. BANGS,

AND HIS

ESTEEMED LADY,

WHO, FOR FIFTY YEARS, HAS BEEN THE SHARER OF HIS TOILS AND TRIUMPHS,

These lines are affectionately inscribed,

BY ONE WHO, FROM INFANCY, HAS KNOWN AND LOVED THEM.

THE smile of Heaven our pathway cheers
On this our happy marriage day;
A wedded life of fifty years
Demands a joyous festive lay.

Life is not all a wilderness,
O'erhung with clouds, surcharged with tears;
Oh! life hath many things to bless,
When holy Faith the spirit cheers.

This world hath clouds; yet blissful rays
Of sunshine, from the throne of Love,
Have lighted up life's varied ways,
While passing to our home above.

In journeying to our home of rest,
Full half a century has past;
Each year with still new mercies blest,
And yet more favored than the last.

Our sons and daughters round us press,
Our children's children too arise;
And all unite our names to bless,
And light our passage to the skies.

Zion beloved, our chiefest care—
Now thousands strong throughout the land—
When first we joined her weal to share,
How few in number was her band!

By Zion's Lord to conquest led,
We in her bloodless battles fought;
Behold! from hence it shall be said,
What hath the God of Israel wrought!

And now let highest praise abound,
Let worship, honor, might, be given;
Angels and men the strain resound,
Of glory to the God of Heaven.

SHEPHERDESS.

The hymn having been read by DR. FOSTER, the company spontaneously united in singing it with much spirit.

A hymn composed by Dr. Reese was read by the Rev. Dr. Foster; and two copies printed on satin, were presented to Dr. Bangs and his Lady by Doctor Reese, who said, viz.—

My Venerated Friends:—

In presenting to you these frail memorials of the event in your history which affords so interesting an occasion to your family and friends, who now surround you, I beg to congratulate you both on their behalf, that you have been thus long spared to those who so love and honor you; and that during half a century, you have together lived and prospered under the Divine blessing. The children whom God has given you, with their children, have assembled to greet you on this fiftieth anniversary of your marriage, to which they are prompted by that filial affection, to which your parental relations entitle you. But they are not alone in the emotions which the time and the occasion inspire; for all of us have learned to regard you with similar feelings of reverence and affection, and to venerate you as our Father and Mother, for you have ever been such to many of us. The tender and kindly relations which have endeared you both to myself, during more than half of your married life, render this occasion to my own heart one of touching interest, and I feel much more than I can express.

I cannot forbear, however, congratulating you upon

your children, who are here present; all of whom are worthy of such parents, and beloved by us all for your sake, and for their own. Nor can it be invidious to allude to your eldest son, under whose hospitable roof we have met for this celebration. "In honoring his father and mother," not in word only, but in deed and in truth, he has the assured inheritance that his "days shall be long in the land which the Lord God giveth him." All of us here present will respond to the sentiment, "God bless him, and all that belong to him; our worthy host and hostess, their brothers and sisters, and their children, to the latest generation! Such a son ought to 'live forever.'"

But I forbear to say more, though my heart is full; and will only add on behalf of all present that we rejoice in your happy, useful, and honored lives, which we trust may yet be prolonged to be a continued blessing to your family and to us. May we who have been so endeared to each other on earth, have a blissful reunion above, and be companions in eternity!

HYMN

WRITTEN IMPROMPTU,

FOR

The Celebration of the Semi-Centennial Anniversary

OF THE MARRIAGE OF THE

REV. NATHAN BANGS, D. D., AND MARY, HIS WIFE,

AT

THE RESIDENCE OF THEIR SON, LEMUEL BANGS,

50 IRVING PLACE, N. Y.,

APRIL 23, 1856,

BY AN OLD FRIEND OF THE FAMILY.

I.

God of our fathers!—Thee we praise
For granting us such "length of days;"
Our sons and daughters join our song,
Their children, too, the strain prolong.

II.

Full *half a century* has fled
Since at thine altar we were wed;
Our hands and hearts were joined in truth,
Sealed to each other from our youth.

III.

And now that both, advanced in years,
Midst joys and sorrows, hopes and fears,
"Still live" to greet our wedding day,
And with our friends to praise and pray—

IV.

To Thee, our God, be all the praise!
Our Ebenezer let us raise;
Thus far preserved by power divine,
Our age, as was our youth, is thine.

V.

Children, and children's children here,
Unto *our* God an altar rear!
To Him *your* youth, *your* age belongs,
Who thus your parents' lives prolongs.

VI.

And now when *fifty years* are past,
We prove His mercies ever last;
And still, with steadfast faith, we trust
For more—when we've returned to dust.

VII.

One wish—one prayer—to us remains;
If granted,—death can bring no pains:
That our *whole* family may meet
In heaven, and *there* each other greet!

VIII.

Come, friends and neighbors! old and young,
Unite in our thanksgiving song;
Let our whole circle breathe this prayer—
May we be still *companions* there!

The Rev. SEYMOUR LANDON having concluded the more formal portions of the celebration by an appropriate prayer, the guests for a while indulged in a happy interchange of thought and feeling, such

as none but an occasion of this sort could inspire. The meeting of early friends, whom circumstances and the varied interests of life had separated for many years, was most cordial and sincere; the friendly grasp of hands and the hearty recognition of friendly faces long unseen, led to many exclamations of happy surprise, and presented altogether a scene rarely to be met with. From every part of the city were observed those who were early engaged in the service of the church, well known to each other, but not often meeting around the social board. The old, the middle-aged, the young, were alike represented, and all alike were enthusiastically alive to the interest of the occasion. In the midst of this friendly enthusiasm, supper was announced; when the company partook of the rich repast, and soon after separated for home. Thus ended this rare festive occasion, owing much of its interest to the eldest beloved daughter-in-law of the aged couple; at her suggestion it was commenced, and through her perseverance and happy management it was gracefully accomplished.

JUN 2 1953